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DOWNTOWN, PARK SLOPE & BAY RIDGE EDITIONS

AWR/16 pages • Vol. 32, No. 34 • Friday, August 28, 2009 • FREE

BLOOMY IN OUR HOOD

Mayor to Bruce: Bring back Gehry

Speaks frankly at Paper roundtable



Mayor Bloomberg came to our Downtown Brooklyn offices on Monday to defend his record — and lay out an agenda for a third term. He made news with virtually every comment.

MEET BROOKLYN'S OTHER MAYORS

Our borough is a city of neighborhoods — and each has its own mayor. Meet some on page 12.

By Mike McLaughlin

The Brooklyn Paper

Mayor Bloomberg wants Atlantic Yards developer Bruce Ratner to bring back Frank Gehry's much-hyped designs for the stalled and increasingly costly arena and 16 skyscrapers. "He should use the Gehry design, because he will get great events from around the world going directly to Brooklyn," the mayor told a team of reporters and editors from the Community Newspaper Group, the parent company of The Brooklyn Paper, on Monday. "Simon and Garfunkel would go to Brooklyn in a second before they go to Madison Square Garden. They're New Yorkers."

The meeting was a stop on the campaign trail for the would-be third-term mayor, who won the chance to run for reelection last year after the City Council acceded to his wishes that the two-term limit be eliminated, despite two public referenda affirming it. Naturally, that topic came up.

"It was a unique period in the city," Bloomberg said. "The economy was starting to fall apart, our school system was on the verge of a major breakthrough. ... So I just decided that I would go ahead and, if the City Council wanted to change the law, let's see what the voters want."

"The voters want somebody independent and competent and hopefully they'll think I'm that way," he added. The hour-long interview covered many topics, but Bloomberg dwelled on Brooklyn's long-running saga, Atlantic Yards, arguing that lawsuits by Ratner's opponents were largely responsible for depriving Brooklyn of the vaunted architect's vision.

"One of the great sins here is this small group of people stalled it so long [that] the economy is different," Bloomberg said. "I tried to get Ratner to go ahead and do the Gehry design ... but the economy is just not there."

The mayor conceded that Ratner probably would have faltered during the real-estate bust, even without relentless opposition from groups like Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn. "He might have been in trouble halfway through, but at least it would have been in the ground, going up."

He also blasted the kinds of community benefits agreement that Ratner signed with several groups, some of which did not exist before they signed an agreement to support the project in exchange for some financial backing.

See MAYOR on page 12

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Park Slope's original Vietnamese sandwich from Hanco's (left), and the Henry's version.

SANDWICH WAR

Two Vietnamese shops wage bun battle

By Gersh Kuntzman and Shannon Geis

The Brooklyn Paper

Seventh Avenue in Park Slope just got its second Vietnamese sandwich shop — four blocks from the neighborhood's first and not since the Vietnam War has there been as juicy a story of spies, secrets, lies and Vietnamese families torn apart.

At least this time, the collateral damage is delicious. The newcomer in question — Henry's — is just four blocks south of the original banh mi joint, Hanco's.

Of course, it's not uncommon for competitors to set up shop side by side. It happens all the time with McDonald's and Wendy's, Duane Reade and CVS or any number of pizzarias.

But then again, Ronald McDonald doesn't accuse the girl

with the pigtailed of stealing his hamburger recipe.

In this battle, however, Hanco's is accusing Henry's of swiping his secrets while he worked at Tang's original sandwich shop on Bergen Street in Cobble Hill.

There's substantial evidence to bolster Tang's claim: Henry's menu is virtually identical — in typeface, in offerings, in almost every detail — to Tang's.

Henry's sandwiches are almost as identical, offering that delightful Southeast Asian combination of crispy and sweet ground pork, ham, pâté, mayonnaise, chili peppers and pickled carrots and daikon — all piled high on a fresh baguette, a relic of the days when France,

foolishly, though scrumptiously, tried to control Indochina.

Henry's offers bubble tea drinks, just like Tang. Henry's really did work at the Bergen Street Hanco's — and left under less-than-ideal circumstances. "He stole the recipe," Tang told The Brooklyn Paper. "We don't have proof, but it just disappeared. What they do is almost identical to us."

"They were still working for me while they were working on opening their store. They were like spies," he added. "I'm really pissed off. Twenty years to set up everything and then they just copied me."

Naturally, Henry's denied it — though he did admit that he had a falling out with Tang.

See WAR on page 11



The menus for Hanco's (left) and Henry's (right) do look very similar.

LOCKOUT! Sitt shuts down his Coney park

By Mike McLaughlin

for The Brooklyn Paper

Developer Joe Sitt abruptly shut down the Dreamland amusement park on his land in Coney Island, the site of the old Astroland theme park, last Friday morning, saying that the operator owed more than \$500,000 in rent.

The lockout on Surf Avenue and West 10th Street made about a dozen rides and attractions off limits, perhaps for the rest of the short-lived season, which winds down after Labor Day.

Since the lockout, Dreamland's operator, Anthony Raffaele, has been in court trying to get a judge to declare that Sitt acted illegally, but Monday's hearing was inconclusive. Another ses-

sion was set for Thursday. Raffaele admits that he owes around \$500,000 in rent, but said Sitt's lockout was not only illegal, but hostile. "It's so late in the season, if they had beef with me, now is not the time," he said.

Sitt disagreed, saying that he, not Raffaele or the kids being turned away from the once-thriving amusement area, is the victim here.

"Dreamland has not come close to meeting its financial obligations in many months," said Stefan Friedman, an attorney for Sitt's company, Thor Equities. "We are hopeful that Dreamland will soon pay its rent [and] re-open."

Raffaele, who has long been a behind-the-scenes presence in Coney Is-



land, also ran Sitt's attractions that also closed early last year. This year he planned to be on the Astroland site with Ringling Bros., but when Sitt's negotiations with Ringling broke down, Sitt made him take the whole lot, he said.

Last weekend, he and his workers remained angry about the shutdown. "We just showed up for work and couldn't get in," said Lori Vise, who worked at Dreamland. "It's not fair for the visitors of Coney Island. We want it back open."

And didn't anybody think of the children?

"It's not right to close down in the middle of the season," said Richard Vowles of Sheepshead Bay. "It's going to disappoint a lot of kids. My girlfriend's son likes the

helicopter ride and the train ride." Dreamland sits behind locked gates on what was the Space Age theme park Astroland, which Sitt shut down in a lease disagreement with the land's former owner, Carol Albert. Albert had sold the land to Sitt two years earlier, but continued to operate the amusement park on the site until last year.

Sitt still hopes to redevelop his holdings in Coney Island into a 247-365 Vegas-style Xanadu with rides, retail and hotels. But last week's lockout turned even Sitt's longtime ally, Councilman Dominic Recchia (D-Coney Island), into a critic.

"This is a heartless person who only cares about money," Recchia told the Daily News on Saturday.

Cyclone 'hurls' a no-hitter

By Zeke Faux

for The Brooklyn Paper

Brandon Moore wasn't thinking about throwing a no-hitter or even beating the Ironhorns when he walked out to the mound on Sunday — the Brooklyn starter was just trying to keep down his lunch.

The lanky right-hander was so sick he actually threw up in the bullpen before taking the hill. And he didn't have his best fastball as he labored through the first game of a doubleheader on a sunny day in the oppressive heat. But Moore kept Aberdeen guessing and finished with the first no-hitter in Cyclones history — albeit a seven-inning performance, since games in twin hills are shortened.

"My fastball command wasn't there, so I was behind in a lot of counts," said the hurler. "I was sweating a lot all game and I wasn't feeling too good."

Good thing he didn't say anything about it to his coaches.

Relying on his slider and change up and a steady supply of water provided by rotation mate Collin McHugh, the 23-year-old kept racking up zeroes —

See HURLER on page 15



Brooklyn Paper photographer Tom Callan with the late Sen. Edward Kennedy in 2001.

Ted Kennedy's B'klyn legacy

By Gersh Kuntzman

The Brooklyn Paper

Though best known for representing Massachusetts for 47 years in the Senate, Ted Kennedy was also known to gourmands in Brooklyn Heights.

In June, 2001, Kennedy and his niece Caroline dined at the now-defunct (but well-remembered) La Bouillabaisse on Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn Heights — invited there by owner Neil Ganic, who had met Kennedy previously.

Our legendary photographer Tom Callan — the Weegee of Brooklyn Heights — was naturally on hand. He picks up the story from there.

"They had dinner, I took photos, and everyone left, except for Sen. Kennedy," Callan recalled on

See TEDDY on page 11

Spike's Jackson tribute will be in Prospect Park this Saturday

By Robert Voris

for The Brooklyn Paper

The hordes of Michael Jackson have beat it from Fort Greene Park — and are heading for Prospect Park's Nethermade for Spike Lee's posthumous birthday party and memorial this Saturday.

As The Brooklyn Paper reported last week, the filmmaker's tribute to the singer quickly grew bigger than the little Outrigger and Vaux Jewelbox in Fort Greene, prompting city officials to open most of this week scrambling to relocate the memorial to the lot in the center of Prospect Park.

A spokesman for the Prospect Park Alliance said the Nethermade can hold about 20,000, but would not confirm whether that's how many people are expected at the Aug. 29 memorial/party/tribute/concert.

It is unclear whether there will be live music at the event, said Alliance



Michael Jackson, seen here rehearsing his comeback tour days before his June 25 death, will be mourned and honored this Saturday in Prospect Park.

spokesman Eugene Patron, though a full-out tribute to the one-time King of Pop could attract tens of thousands, given Jackson's vast popularity.

In a strange twist, all media calls to the Parks Department were referred to Lee's 40 Acres and Mule Filmworks, which has not responded to The Brooklyn Paper's numerous requests for comment in time for our thriller of a deadline.

Indeed, all that is known about the event comes from a flier that appears on the 40 Acres Web site.

"You are invited by Spike Lee and the great borough of Brooklyn to celebrate the 40th birthday of Michael Jackson," the flier for the noon-5 p.m. event says.

It goes on to say that entertainment will be provided by "DJ Spinn on the wheels of steel" and quotes the key lyrics to "Wanna Be Startin' Something": "Ma

ma se, ma ma sa, ma ma coo sa."

News that the event had been moved to Prospect Park calmed Fort Greene concerns. Last week, Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Fort Greene) told New York Times blog that Lee's memorial would clearly attract more than the 2,000 people anticipated on the first permit request (perhaps you could blame it on the bogie, as Jackson himself once sang).

"This was supposed to be a small-scale community event," said James.

Word continues to spread over the Internet like a speed demon (that's a Jackson song title, silly) of Lee's homecoming pop icon. Lee directed in the video for the 1996 single, "They Don't Care About Us."

Aug. 29 would have been Jackson's 51st birthday. Jackson died on June 25 under mysterious circumstances.

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THE stoop

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

WILLIAMSBURG Hewes-less entrance

Straphangers want stairs to JMZ reopened

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

Stairways to heaven they ain't.

A pair of long-closed subway entrances at the Hewes Street J and M train station are a constant annoyance to Williamsburg commuters, who say the locked gates force them to walk blocks out of their way — and often miss their trains.

Both of the above-ground station's entrances near the corner of Montrose Avenue and Broadway have been shuttered for years, forcing straphangers to shuffle more than a block to either of the operable entrances near the corner of Hooper Street and Broadway.

Though the closures add just a few hundred feet to commuters, they can cause big delays for straphangers. "It is an inconvenience because you have to walk down all that way if you're coming from [the east]," said Williamsburg resident Ariel Garcia, who told The Brooklyn Paper that he misses the train "all the time" as he hustles the extra block.

Williamsburg resident Michael Roma echoed his sentiment. "I live the opposite way, so I have to walk a lot more when I'm getting on and when I'm getting off," he said. "I don't get why it's not open."

Unfortunately for straphangers, New York City Transit has no plans to reopen the staircases, according to spokesman James Anyasi, who said that the egress and exits were closed to keep commuters safe during more dangerous times decades ago.

"At that time, we went around the system and shut down some part-time en-



Williamsburgers want the MTA to open the long-shuttered entrance and exits at the eastern end of the Hewes Street JMZ station.

PARK SLOPE Library closure near

Slopes' book nook to be renovated

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Park Slope's busy public library branch will shut down this fall — perhaps for a year or more — while the city renovates the building to make it more accessible to the disabled. The Brooklyn Paper has learned.

But some bookworms are reading the riot act to the Brooklyn Public Library because they don't want to be forced out of their literary haunt at the corner of Sixth Avenue and Ninth Street.

"It's for worthwhile renovations," said Brian Sulkow, who makes regular visits to the book repository with his wife and son, but "closing it for a year and a half is significant. It's a community center. Kids go there after school. People take literacy classes there."

It is unclear how long the library will be off-limits, but city officials said the project has a two-year maximum timeline. A contractor has already been hired for the \$2-million renovation.

The majestic brick building was built in 1906 as part of Andrew Carnegie's library philanthropy and includes classic period features such as Doric columns, ironplaces and stained-glass windows.

The building will get an elevator, an outdoor ramp and restrooms to accommodate handicapped visitors as well as an air-conditioning system.

A spokeswoman for Brooklyn Public Library declined to say when construction would shut the Park Slope branch but prom-

ises because of crime," said Anyasi, who noted that the shuttered entrances are equipped with electromagnetic sensors allowing station agents to unlock them in case of emergencies.

This isn't the first time that commuters have called on the MTA to re-open obstructed subway entrances. Park Slope straphangers sparred with the agency over closed entrances to the Seventh Avenue B and Q train station near the corner of Flatbush Avenue and Sterling Place.

Last fall, the MTA mixed a similar proposal to unlock a long-closed staircase in the Fourth Avenue and Ninth Street station of the F, R and M trains, despite claims from neighbors that unsealing the entrance could improve passenger safety by allowing straphangers to enter the subway stop without crossing the bustling boulevard.

— with Jared Foretek and Shannon Geis



The library branch at Ninth Street and Sixth Avenue will close — perhaps for more than a year.

ised there would be a public meeting when the Library is ready to discuss its plans. The project will start this fall, said Matthew Monahan, the assistant commissioner for the Department of Design and Construction.

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS Shul house rocked — again!

By Shannon Geis
The Brooklyn Paper

A Brooklyn Heights synagogue that has been repeatedly robbed and attacked was hit again last week — and rabbis believe it is the same man responsible for earlier break-ins.

"He's broken in before," said Rabbi Simcha Weinstein of Congregation B'nai Avraham on Remsen Street, which has been the site of repeated

burglaries and attempted burglaries over since the suspect, a serial burglar, was invited in for a meal five years ago. In the Aug. 20 incident, cops said that the burglar broke in through the front door of the house of worship, which is between Henry and Clinton streets, at around 3:30 a.m.

This time, however, he was confronted by a member of the cleaning staff, who asked

what he was doing there.

Rather than answer, he quickly ran out of the synagogue empty handed.

B'nai Avraham has been hit by this burglar before, Weinstein said. Last fall, he tried to enter, but the attempt failed when neighbors called the police.

And earlier this year, the serial burglar broke into the shul twice in one week.

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Cops nab six in subway cellphone theft

76TH PRECINCT

Carroll Gardens
Cobble Hill-Red Hook
Police arrested six men, ranging from 16-26 years old, for stealing a cellphone from a woman on the subway at the Bergen Street station on Aug. 18.

One member of the sextet snatched the victim's iPhone on 10:40 pm in the station beneath Smith Street when they exited the train. Police later charged the gang with a similar mugging at the Fourth Avenue subway station days earlier on Aug. 13.

Park stalk

A purse-snatcher exploited a mother's attention to her child in a park on Hicks Street to steal her pocketbook on Aug. 4.

The victim, 20, told police she momentarily left her bag to tend to her child in Voorhees Park at Congress Street at 5

pm. When she returned to her perch, her bag, containing her driver's license and banking and credit cards, was gone.

Swimmer's gear

A thief broke into a man's car near the corner of Ferris and Coffey streets on Aug. 6 while the victim was swimming blocks away in the Red Hook public pool.

84TH PRECINCT

Brooklyn Heights-DUMBO
Boerum Hill-Downtown
Beast it
A thug took a drum machine from a man on Fulton Street on Aug. 18.

In a bizarre musical crime, the thug approached the man near Boerum Place at around 5:30 pm and asked what he was doing with the drum machine.

Ignoring the answer, the thief demanded the machine

POLICE BLOTTER

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— but the would-be Keith Moon refused.
That's when the thief pulled a gun and grabbed the electronic percussion device.

Beat up

A thug beat up a man and took his money on Bergen Street on Aug. 13.

The man was near Nevins Street at around 11 am when the perp asked him if he had the time. Before the man could answer, the perp knocked him down and began beating him before taking his money.

Purse swipes

Just like last week, purse-snatchers were busy again:

• A thief grabbed a woman's purse from her Livingston Street office, located between Hoyt Street and Gallatin Place, on Aug. 17. The woman left her office unattended at around noon and returned an hour later to find the purse missing.

• A thief grabbed a woman's purse as she tied her shoes on Court Street near Montague Street on Aug. 18. The woman placed her purse on the ground next to her at around 10:45 am, and the perp grabbed it and ran.

• Thugs took a woman's purse on Montague Street near Clinton Street at around 1:30 pm on Aug. 20. In this

case, the thieves got out of a parked vehicle, grabbed the purse, got back into the car, and drove away.

• A thief took a woman's purse at the Cadman Plaza East branch of the Brooklyn Public Library on Aug. 22. The woman was doing research at 5 pm with the bag on the back of her chair. When she checked on it an hour later, it was gone.

• Thugs beat up a man and took his bag on Hoyt Street between Livingston and Schermerhorn streets on Aug. 19. The victim told cops that the thugs snatched up from behind and hit him on the head at around 9 pm.

After a brief struggle, one of the perps flashed a gun, and the man gave up the bag.

• A thief took a man's wallet while he was working out at World Martial Arts Center on Atlantic Avenue on Aug. 17. When the man was done with his workout at around 8 pm, he discovered that someone had broken the lock on his locker and taken his wallet.

88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene-Clinton Hill
Armed rob

Gun-toting hoodlums robbed a man near Fort Greene Park on Aug. 20. The rogues snatched behind the victim, 41, near the corner of Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park at 5 am. One of the culprits brandished a firearm before taking the man's wallet, which contained \$20 and banking and credit cards.

88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene-Clinton Hill
Armed rob

A lucky leech found an unlocked Jeep overnight on Aug. 22 on E. Third Street and helped himself to the navigation system and prescription pills.

The owner neglected to lock up his ride when he parked between Vanderbilt Street and Greenwood Avenue at 9:30 pm, and when

Baubles heads

A man laden with jewelry that he said was worth tens of thousands of dollars was robbed by a trio of armed stickup goons on Carlton Avenue on Aug. 20.

The marauders accosted the victim, 52, as he approached his car parked between Park and Myrtle avenues at 5:40 pm. One of the bastards pulled out a weapon, forcing the bejeweled individual to surrender two necklaces, a bracelet, a wristwatch, wedding band, pinky ring and \$1,200.

72ND PRECINCT

Windsor Terrace
Nightclub melee

Cops took a man into custody after he allegedly punched and pulled a woman at a Fifth Avenue club at 2:45 am on Aug. 22.

The two were arguing inside the club, which is near 26th Street, when the disagreement turned violent and the man punched the woman in the face and began dragging her across the floor.

She was bruised on her face, neck and back; he was charged with assault.

Lock your car!

A thief went through the front door of a Sixth Avenue apartment on Aug. 20, hauling off money orders, watches and jewelry valued at \$4,200.

The tenant told cops that she had locked the door when she left the apartment, which is between 68th Street and Bay Ridge Avenue, at 11:30 am. But when she returned at 4:35 pm, she discovered that the lock had been picked and her property pinched.

77TH PRECINCT

Prospect Heights
Hit-and-run

A reckless driver pulled a hit a pedestrian on Washington Avenue on Aug. 19. The victim was between Atlantic Avenue and Pacific Street at 8:10 pm when a Porsche Cayenne clipped her.

The driver of the luxury SUV sped off.

Cold wheels

A clunker-hungry crook hotwired a 1999 Jeep Cherokee parked on Lincoln Place between Washington and Underhill avenues.

The owner of the SUV locked it at 9 am on Aug. 21, but when he returned to the spot at noon two days later, the vehicle was gone.

90TH PRECINCT

Williamsburg-Bushwick
It takes four

Four vicious hoodlums beat down a man and stole his messenger bag at the corner of White and McKibbin streets on Aug. 21.

The victim was standing on the corner at 9:20 pm when the quartet of criminals jumped him, kicking and punching him to the ground and making off with his bag, which contained his BlackBerry and laptop computer.

Paint bowl

A stupid sniper shot a paintball at the security station of a Grand Street storage facility on Aug. 17, injuring the guard who was hit by shattered glass.

She sustained lacerations around her left eye in the 9:45 pm incident. The triggerman apologized to the guard before he left the storage facility, which is between Gardner Avenue and Newton Creek, but police are still hunting him.

Bogey on Bogart

A would-be Bonnie and Clyde assaulted a woman on Bogart Street at early on Aug. 21.

The female perp grabbed the victim's handbag, spinning her around and allowing her male accomplice to approach from behind at around 12:25 am between Varet and Cook streets. He slapped the victim to the ground and the two muggers made off with her iPhone, \$15 and handbag.

Thou shalt steal

Risking the wrath of a vengeful God, an unbelly thief stole \$500 from a Bedford Avenue synagogue on Aug. 20.

The rabbi was unsure if he locked the door at 10 am when he left the synagogue, which is between Row and Wilson streets, but was quite certain that when he came back at noon the collection boxes had been cracked and the cash corralled.

Rim job

A thief with a taste for bling took two tires with hot rims from a car parked on Wythe Avenue overnight on Aug. 19.

When the owner of the tricked-out Nissan Marano left his ride between S. Eighth and S. Ninth streets at 10 pm, it was a four-wheeled vehicle, but upon his return at 8:15 the next morning, two of the tires and their rims, valued at \$3,000, had been rolled away.

GTAs

Cops locked up one half of a sophisticated car theft duo on Aug. 17.

Police confronted the perps as they attempted to heist a 2008 Suzuki motorcycle on Huron Street between West and Franklin streets at around 4:20 am, but the thieves fled before cops could cuff them.

One crook dashed down Huron Street and escaped in a gray minivan with tinted windows, but police were able to nab the other no-goodnik — who was "in possession of a radio police scanner on a Brooklyn North frequency," cops said.

Knifepoint

A pair of perps pulled a knife on a 25-year-old woman in a horrifying Aug. 17 stickup.

The assailants grabbed the victim at around 10:20 pm and threw her against a garage door near the corner of N. 14th Street and Wythe Avenue.

"Don't move or say anything," a mugger ordered. The thieves escaped with the victim's bag, which contained a laptop, a cellphone, credit cards, and a computer hard drive.

Badfodder!

Crooks held up two Bedford Avenue eateries in the same building last week, making off with thousands of dollars in a pair of brazen stickups.

• An armed man entered Yogurtberry — a yogurt shop on the block between N. Fifth and N. Sixth streets — and robbed the store of \$2,036 on Aug. 19.

The perp approached the register at around 5:50 pm and handed an employee a note stating: "I have a gun, I don't want to cause a scene, so do it now," the thug said.

The crook never needed to reveal his piece — the employee forked over three envelopes containing the cash.

• The following day, a robber who said he had a gun heisted \$400 from a Subway sandwich shop.

The crook approached the register at around 7:55 pm and ordered a hoagie. Then he handed an employee a note stating, "I have a gun, give me everything you have."

The employee removed a stack of \$20 bills from the register and gave it to the perp, but the thief wanted more.

"Give me everything," said the robber, who kept his right hand under his shirt throughout the stick-up.

The employee handed over the rest of the money in the register — approximately \$400 — and the crook fled.

Driggs dregs
Cops nabbed three thugs suspected of assaulting a 53-year-old at the corner of Driggs Avenue and Lorimer Street on Aug. 22.

The crooks confronted the victim at around 11:15 pm and struck him "in the face, head and body with closed fists several times causing pain, swelling and lacerations," according to the police report.

The thieves ran off with \$11, but cops canvassed the neighborhood with an openness until they apprehended the suspects.

Cop con
Cops nabbed a con artist suspected of impersonating a police officer in an attempt to extort a Greenpoint doctor.

The scammer pretended he was a cop when he called a Driggs Avenue pediatric office on Aug. 18 and asked a doctor to donate money to a charity benefiting police officers.

The medic agreed to donate \$1,500 to the charity — but when she informed him the following day that she couldn't donate as much money, the conman lost his cool.

The fake cop threatened the doctor and told her that he would fine her \$5,000 — and send cops to visit her office — if she didn't hand over the cash.

But the real cops had no trouble locking up the fake one. They locked up a 25-year-old suspected of the offense.

— Robert Voris

— Ben Muesig

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OUR OPINION

Bad Sitt-uation

In Coney Island's long and infamous history — complete with suspicious fires, shysters, and midnight tear-downs — little compares to what the increasingly infamous Joe Sitt did last week.

Sitt, you'll recall, is the man who started buying up land in the faded "People's Playground" a few years ago and successfully consolidated quite a nice bit of Boardwalk-side property.

He said he wanted to build a 24-7, Vegas-style theme park that would include all-year rides, attractions, hotels, shops and, yes, new amusements. If it happened the way Sitt promised, Coney would indeed be a better place — and we said so in many editorials.

But overtime, it has become clear that Sitt's only goal in Coney Island was to make a killing on his property by forcing the city's hand and then getting a buyout from Mayor Bloomberg, who said that Sitt was merely a land speculator who had no intention of building a new Coney Island Xanadu in the spirit of the

Joe Sitt fails the city at Coney Island — again. Now it's clear that all he wanted was money.

old Luna Park and Dreamland.

Apparently, the mayor was right along along. Sitt is clearly no Barnum-like mirth-maker, no Disney-esque family entertainer. It's unclear if he could even run a kiddie park properly.

Last summer, for example, Sitt promised rides and attractions on his land — but the amusements were pulpy, and they didn't even last the entire season.

Then, on the eve of Christmas, he locked out some of his Boardwalk tenants — including one who had the nerve to criticize him publicly. Then, he refused to grant Astroland a one-year lease extension that would have allowed the historic, Space Age theme park to continue operating and giving a modicum of life along the Boardwalk.

Instead, Sitt promised a summer fes-

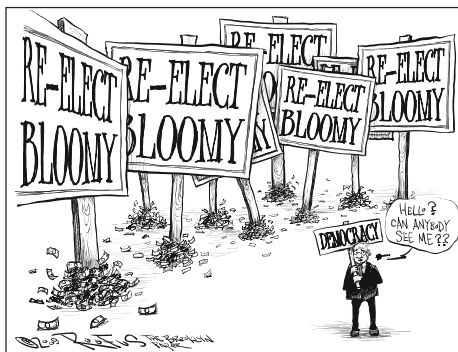
tival that included an amusement park run by longtime Coney player Anthony Raffaele. That festival got off to a slow start and never became a true tourist attraction, but at least it provided rides and games and other odds to Coney's vital history as a place for summer fun.

But last week, with several key weeks still left in the summer, Sitt locked out the amusement operators, citing a fairly minor rent dispute with Raffaele that could have easily been settled in a few weeks, after the crowds of bumper-car-riding kids had gone back to school.

Instead, Sitt now has acres and acres of vacant land that are doing nothing for anybody. Meanwhile, the mayor is close to buying a large part of Sitt's land for about \$100 million — tens of millions more than the speculator paid for it just a few years ago.

Apparently, that's all Joe Sitt wanted. But for the rest of us, it's another lost summer at Coney Island. That's Joe Sitt's fault. Again.

ALL DRAWN OUT



WEB CHATTER

Why would Sitt close his park?

Our interview story this week about Joe Sitt closing his own Coney Island amusement park in a rent dispute ("Lockout! Joe Sitt shuts down his own Coney amusement park," Aug. 21) really got people talking. Here's what they had to say.

"So sad what has become of a great New York City treasure. Joe Sitt sucks!"

Rocker 44 from Brooklyn

"He does not suck. Times change. He paid good money for the property and deserves to collect rent. If the rent is not paid, the tenant gets evicted."

Phil from Bay Ridge

"It is illegal to lock someone out the way Sitt did. Sitt would have to go to court to prove that he is owed money and must get the court's permission to serve eviction papers on the tenant. You can't lock, you can't keep people from their property, and you can't remove someone's property without a court order. By the way, this is the second time Sitt did this to his tenants in Coney Island."

Joe from Coney Island

"I'm not sure, Joe, but commercial property has different eviction rules. Sitt may be in the right."

Pacholo from Red Hook

"No, you still need court approval. For example, I saw a court notice about the former gas station at the corner of West Eighth and Sheepshead Bay Road, across from Luna Park. There was a judges order saying because they owed X amount of rent, the owner of the land is taking possession on this date."

"You can't hire thugs, cut, and change locks. It's the law. The only question now is, will Sitt get away with it? When he did it to the businesses at the Henderson building and his other tenants on Surf, they were moon and pop businesses. Now he took on Geran, and they will go to court over this. They will sue for illegal lockout."

Joe from Coney Island

"Actually, we here at Where Equities are very kind people. We first thought about burning down Dreamland, but instead we just decided to cut locks and evict people. Why do we do this? We get bored. Is anyone interested in renting some property? We have sky-high rates and we'll evict you soon. Sounds great, right?"

Where Equities from Brooklyn

"Joe is right, you need a sheriff to evict someone, post a judges order, padlock the place. I have seen this numerous times in the city. Even when Coney Island USA bought its building, they had court ordered paperwork affixed to the doors that they wanted to evict."

Al Pankin from Downtown

"I agree with Bloomberg about using the Gedy design at Atlantic Yards. Brooklyn's architecture and ways of life need a jolt. Our landscape has been afflicted with too much modesty and self-effacement for too long."

John from On High

"Nothing like a puff piece, is there? Was this an interview, or a recitation of PR statements, or a junior high softball game? You wrote that he 'won the chance to run for re-election last year after the City Council acceded to his wishes.' You mean the guy who bought his way back onto the ballot by bribing and coercing the Council — ask Darlene Nealy what pressure pukes tastes like — after a slavish parade of organizations that he funded called him indispensable? The guy who didn't put aside any city money during the flush times and made the city's economy more dependent than ever on finance, insurance, and real estate by driving out light manufacturing to make way for luxury condos? That guy?"

Mark from Coney Island

"Sitt thinks he's above the law. He needs to go through the process and evict and then only a city marshal can put a lock on the door. Sitt can be sued by the lease for this infraction. Big time!"

Jerry from Brighton Beach

• • •

Meanwhile, our online story about Mayor Bloomberg's effort to win our newspaper's endorsement ("Bloomie still wants Gedy — plus other tidbits from the mayor," Aug. 25) generated plenty of Web traffic itself.

"Mayor Bloomberg has done a great job. Mayor Giuliani cleaned up this city and made it livable and did things no one else had the guts to do. Mayor Bloomberg continued making it better. All the

other candidates would drag the city back to the bad old days."

Simon and Garfunkel?!

Brokeland from Downtown

highly polluting private jet? "These are all the obvious questions a reporter would have asked. Too bad one wasn't around."

Paul from Park Slope

"I'm not a huge fan of Bloomberg, but I have to reluctantly agree that he's better (and has been better) than any of the other candidates who make it to election day."

As for Atlantic Yards, I'd love to see Gedy there. I don't wanna pay for it though, which kind of means I am against the project. Same goes for Coney Island. These big projects that mayors love always wind up being paid for by taxpayers, while the profits are reaped by well-connected developers. The city's job should be simply to zone the land and then get out of the way. Stop sticking us with the bill."

Rhyun from Bay Ridge

"One of the great sins here is this small group of people — Mayor Bloomberg, Council Speaker Christine Quinn, and 28 other councilmembers — extend term limits that had twice (!) been approved by the city's voters."

Eric McClure from Park Slope

"Simon and Garfunkel?!"

Brokeland from Downtown

LETTERS

Unsanitary bathrooms

To the editor,

The Boardwalk comfort station on Brighton Second Street has no working soap dispensers.

There are eight broken dispensers on the men's side and eight broken dispensers on the female side.

I have repeatedly notified the Parks Department about these unsanitary bathrooms, but the agency does not appear to give a rat's [body part deleted] as to the cleanliness or comfort of their patrons. Occasionally, hand soap is provided in large individual bottles that the ethically challenged walk off with.

It is not healthy for everyone not to use soap — especially in these times of killer viruses!

Justine Swartz, Brooklyn Heights

Mouth of babe

To the editor,

I found The Brooklyn Paper lying on the table where you left it and it made me want to read it because I saw pictures of you ("You've got to grin and Bae it," Aug. 14). I really liked the story because it catches your attention and because it's funny, too.

I read it because I miss you and wish we could be together. I wish you were here right now. Hugs and kisses.

Jane Kuntzman, Park Slope

Send a letter

By e-mail: newsroom@konglocal.com

By mail: Letters, The Brooklyn Paper, One Metrotech Center, Suite 1001, Brooklyn, NY 11201.

All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's name and neighborhood are published with the letter). Letters may be edited and will not be returned. The earlier in the week you send your letter, the better.

BACK TO SCHOOL!

Registration for New Public School Students

The first day of school is Wednesday, September 9, 2009

Elementary and Middle School

Register at your zoned school starting Wednesday, September 9.

If you don't know your zoned school, visit www.nyc.gov/schools or call 311.

If there is no zoned school for your home address, visit a Student Registration Center.

High School

New students must register at a Student Registration Center.

Student Registration Centers

Hours: Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.
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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

August 28, 2009

Island hopping

It's our guide to the highlights of the Caribbean!

By Mike McLaughlin
and Robin Riskin
The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn doesn't have white sandy beaches or turquoise waters, but on Labor Day weekend, it's the most desirable destination in the West Indies.

More than three million people jam Eastern Parkway for a long weekend of festivities culminating in the 42nd annual parade — the biggest pageant in the city and the blowout of the summer.

With jerk chicken and other tropical flavors piled high and an endless stream of calypso, soca and reggae music — we're talking about the real

Indies bands here, and not some sloppy hipster acts from Williamsburg — it's a feast for the ears and a symphony for the stomach.

Hundreds of thousands of Jamaicans, Haitians, Guyanese, Barbadians, Trinidadians and more populate Brooklyn neighborhoods from Clinton Hill to Flatlands, from Downtown Brooklyn to Canarsie, but almost the full variety of food and drink can be experienced along Nostrand Avenue in Crown Heights.

In homage to the borough's lasting connection to the Lesser and Greater Antilles, The Brooklyn Paper presents its official, unauthorized guide to the West Indian Labor Day parade and Caribbean life — yes, *mon!*

• **Jamaica:** More Brooklynites trace their roots to Jamaica than any West Indian country. According to the 2000 census, almost 80,000 people in Kings County claimed Jamaican heritage.

The culinary highlights — featured at the Feeding Tree on Nostrand Avenue or the Islands on Washington Avenue — include jerk chicken, a salty, sweet, spicy flavor explosion the likes of which the taste buds are unlikely to find anywhere on Jah's green earth; and ackee, the na-

DINING

Cock's Restaurant (806 Nostrand Ave. between Lincoln and St. Johns places, (718) 771-8933). **Feeding Tree** (816 Nostrand Ave. at Lincoln Place, (718) 778-5948). **Gloria's** (104 Nostrand Ave. at Sterling Place, (718) 773-3476). **The Islands** (803 Washington Ave. between St. Johns Place and Eastern Parkway, (718) 998-3575). **Justin's Island Cuisine** (144 Lawrence St. between Fulton and Williamsburg streets, (718) 625-9190). **Kombi** (1279 Flatbush Ave. at Prospect Place, (718) 399-2000). **Sybil's** (127 Church Ave. at Flatbush Avenue, (718) 469-9049).



tional dish consisting of a mashed local fruit and salted codfish.

Don't neglect the beverages, including Irish moss, a sweetened sea-weed elixir (and purported aphrodisiac), or the equally excellent, yet less-arousing, carrot juice.

• **Barbados:** Bajan cuisine is an ode to the flying fish, which is fried or steamed before landing on restaurant plate. Cou

ou, a cornmeal dish with okra slathered in hot sauce, is required eating. Cock's Restaurant, which serves up both, is one of the few Bajan restaurants in Brooklyn.

• **Trinidad and Tobago:** The birthplace of Calypso is also the mother of some of the spiciest foods out of the Caribbean. Gloria's, with several locations around Brooklyn, including the flagship on Nostrand, and Justin's, (which also serves Guyanese items) on Lawrence Street, dish up the satisfying staples of curried chicken and goat, available in a roti or heaped on a plate.

The islands also created the "double," an open-faced vegetarian dumpling of chickpeas and fruit chutney. They're so good, they should be called "the quadruple."



Tropical flavor: (Clockwise from left) Elaine Cock serves up cornmeal cou cou with flying fish and sweet potatoes at her Bajan eatery. Gloria's is known for its roti. Feeding Tree Restaurant serves Jamaican fare.

• **Haiti:** Haitian immigrants and their families are the second-largest West Indian group in Brooklyn and their French heritage distinguishes them from many of the other expats, who came mainly from what were once British colonies.

Kombi, on Flatbush Avenue in Prospect Heights, is a more upscale restaurant and serves pikin, a blazing hot condiment, with many fried dishes. Eaters beware. Also highly recommended is lambi, a conch stew with carrots and tomatoes.

• **Guyana:** The country on the northern coast of South America has a huge Indian influence in its food and Sybil's, on Church Avenue, puts it all on display. The restaurant serves bite-size on curried goat and jerk chicken, but some of the options like dal, lentils, and chana, chickpeas, will have patrons think they're eating in Jackson Heights, Queens.

• **Parade:** The parade is the highlight of the weekend. It's a feast for the eyes and the stomach. The parade is the highlight of the weekend. It's a feast for the eyes and the stomach.

Sunday, Sept. 6
"Fat Sunday" show, a mixture of musical entertainment and comedy acts, 7 pm.

Monday, Sept. 7
J'ouvert, an overnight steel drum band procession features revelers in costumes poking fun at politicians and celebrities. Starts Grand Army Plaza, ends at Nostrand Avenue and Linden Boulevard, 2 am-9 am.

Labor Day Carnival Parade. Eastern Parkway from Rochester Avenue to Grand Army Plaza, 11 am-6 pm.



Carnival week — your guide

All events are free and on the grounds of the Brooklyn Museum 900 Washington Ave., at Eastern Parkway in Prospect Heights, (718) 467-1797 unless otherwise noted. For info, visit www.widaca.org.

Thursday, Sept. 3
Calypso and Soca Concert: Clash of the Calypso Titans, plus Lord Nelson, Sparrow, Rose, Hunter (Dominica), Explainer, Baron, Dense Plummer, Scrutier, Winston

Soso, Becket, Swallow, Gryner and more. 7:30 pm.

Friday, Sept. 4
Stay in School Cultural Concert, 1 pm. Brass Fest concert, 8 pm.

Saturday, Sept. 5
Junior Carnival, parade starts at Kingston Avenue and St. John Place to Washington Avenue for review, 9 am-3 pm.

Steel drum band competition, 8 pm.

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SEPTEMBER 20 L'Imbuto (1952)	

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EVENT

Do 'Battle'

Two hundred thirty three years ago, the British defeated George Washington in the Battle of Brooklyn — but you can still root for the underdog this weekend.

Yes, the massive British army, pushing up from Bay Ridge, forced the rebels back towards what is now J.J. Byrne Park in Park Slope. Washington, seeing that he couldn't win, fled by the skin on his wooden teeth, leaving some troops to die, but saving the bulk of his army to fight, and win, another day.

To celebrate that fact, start on Friday with a walk in and around Prospect Park. Then, on Saturday, honor the Maryland martyrs with a ceremony at a monument inside the park. There's also an all-day reception at the Old Stone House.

The big event of the weekend is the annual battle re-enactment, parade, and commemorative ceremony at Green-Wood Cemetery on Sunday.

Battle of Brooklyn Neighborhood Walk (meet at the Grand Army Plaza entrance to Prospect Park at Union Street and Eastern Parkway, (718) 768-3195). **Friday, Aug. 28, 6 pm:** 512 Maryland 400 Remembrance Ceremony (enter at Prospect Park Southwest and 16th Street to Wellhouse Drive, then uphill to the monument, (718) 768-3195). **Saturday, Aug. 29, 11 am:** Battle Days Reception at the Old Stone House (Fifth Avenue between Third and Fourth Streets in J.J. Byrne Park, (718) 768-3195). **Saturday, Aug. 29, 10 am-5 pm:** Battle of Brooklyn Commemoration at Green-Wood Cemetery (500 25th St. at Fifth Avenue in Greenwood Heights, (718) 768-7200). **Sunday, Aug. 30, 10 am-3 pm.** —Robin Riskin

ART

Get a room

The Convent of St. Cecilia in Greenpoint housed nuns until last year, but on Friday, it will become a different kind of haven.

A group of 25 artists have transformed the nuns' small rooms into "Room Tones," an exhibition that is a do-it-yourselfer's dream, said Nathan Spodnik, the event's organizer.

"The main idea of the show is to make our own rules to do whatever we want," he explained.

As a result, the rooms have been transformed into sculpture galleries, movie screening rooms and other art installations. Meanwhile, the first floor has contributions from each of the individuals, such as Katherine Wolkoff's "Deer Bed" (pictured).

Spodnik said the convent is a perfect space because the peeling paint and less-polished look gives the show a unique feel compared to fancier gallery spaces. Plus, organizers got it for free.

"Room Tones" at the Convent of St. Cecilia (21 Monitor St. between Herbert and Richardson streets, (646) 306-8086) opens on Friday, Aug. 28 at 6 pm and runs weekends through Sept. 6, noon-5 pm. —Robert Voris

ART

Walk of art

This is it: Your last chance to see some great art while you shop.

All summer long, browsers on Fifth Avenue have been enjoying the city's "Art Walk," which filled nearly 90 restaurants, stores and businesses with the work of local artists.

But the mile-long gallery comes down on Aug. 31.

"It's been an exciting twist on the summer stroll," said organizer Irene LoRe, the owner of Aunt Suzie's restaurant and a director of the Fifth Avenue Business Improvement District.

The exhibition was curated by Albert Trotman and Erika Clarke. Some of Trotman's pieces are at 200 Fifth, a restaurant near Union Street. And make sure to catch Erica Clark's "Horseman" (pictured) at Lisa Lobe's salon at 512 Fifth Ave., between 12th and 13th streets.

Fifth Avenue Art Walk (Fifth Avenue between Dean and 18th streets in Park Slope, (718) 369-2008). For info, visit www.allaboutfifth.blogspot.com. —Moses Jefferson

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HERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

SATURDAY August 29
Golden ticket
We don't usually make kids events one of our "Editors' Picks," but only our curmudgeonly former publisher would deny us the chance to celebrate one of the greatest movies ever. Though today's screening of "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory" is part of a kid series, there's bound to be plenty of adults willing up at the end when Wonka says, "I said, 'Good day!'"
3 pm, "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory," Brooklyn Museum (227 Fourth Ave., at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 857-4816). Tickets \$5 per person, \$15 per family.

SUNDAY August 30
Let George do it
We must be a bunch of Brooklyn masochists, but every year, we're drawn to watch a re-enactment of one of the worst (and best, if you believe the historians) days in American history: the day that the British decimated American troops in the Battle of Brooklyn. True, Washington fled with his army to fight another day, but our borough was left a bloody mess.
Noon, Battle of Brooklyn re-enactment, Green-Wood Cemetery (Fifth Avenue and 25th Street in Sunset Park, (718) 768-7300). Free.

SUNDAY August 30
Rockabilly this town
This could be the best \$12 you ever spent. Head to the Boardwalk, grab a beer at Cha Cha's and get your fill of six live rockabilly bands (including the Memphis Morticians, pictured), plus live burlesque and sideshow performers as part of this year's Coney Island Rockabilly Festival, which continues through Monday.
8 pm, Coney Island Rockabilly Festival, Cha Cha's (Coney Island Boardwalk near W. 12th Street in Coney Island). For info, visit www.mypapac.com/rockabillyrecovery.

FRIDAY September 4
Bite us
Today is one of your last chances to see the great "Wicked Plants" exhibit at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, whose plantsmiths have put together a celebration of violent flora in honor of Amy Stewart's book, "Wicked Plants: The Weed That Killed Lincoln's Mother and Other Botanical Atrocities." (OK, we won't get too close!)
"Wicked Plants" at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 100 Washington Ave., at Eastern Parkway in Prospect Heights, (718) 623-2200 through Sept. 6. Admission is \$8.

SATURDAY September 5
Wicked Plants
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FRI, AUG. 28
URBAN PLANT ART: Brooklyn artist Sara Bouchard and German artist Leslie Kun investigate urban plants together. Includes discussion, participation, and walks through the neighborhood. Free. Open Source Gallery 225 7th St., at Fifth Avenue in Greenwood Heights, www.urbanplantart.com.

MUSIC, AFTER THE JUMP FESTIVAL: Free. Littlefield (622 Degraw St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Gowanus, (718) 855-3388). www.littlefield.com.

GENDER EQUALITY FESTIVAL: Entertainment, activities, information, free food, and prizes. The year's theme: "Brooklyn We Go Hard!" Free. 10 am-3 pm, Cuyler Gore Park (Corner of Greene Avenue and Fulton Street in Fort Greene, (718) 624-4100). www.genderequality.com.

ART EXHIBIT, "ROOM TONES": Group art exhibition in a converted convent opens. 6 pm, Saint Cecilia Convent (21 Montrose St. in Greenpoint, www.roomtones.org).

FILM, "AFTER LIFE": Part of B.A.B.'s Films of Hiroshima Kore-eda. \$11 (38 seniors and students). 7 pm, Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 634-4100). www.bam.org.

FILM, "NOTORIOUS": Indoor and air-conditioned. \$5. 8 pm, Brooklyn Lyceum (227 Fourth Ave., at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 857-4816). www.brooklynlyceum.com.

FILM, "ST. NICK": Live music before free sangria after. 59. 8:30 pm, Old American Cafe (252 Third St. in Gowanus, (718) 417-7362). www.roofgarden.com.

FIREWORKS: Free. 9:30 pm, Boardwalk (Gulf Avenue and W. 12th Street in Coney Island). www.coneyislandguide.com.

SAT, AUG. 29
OUTDOORS AND TOURS
BIKE IT: Transportation Alternatives leads a bike ride starting in Brooklyn and going through Queens, Manhattan and the Bronx. Free. 8:30 am-noon, Grand Army Plaza (Under the Soldiers' and Sailors' Arch in Park Slope). www.transalt.org/bikeit.

INTRODUCTION TO BROWWATCHING: Free. Noon, Prospect Park Audubon Center (Fulton Street in Prospect Park, (718) 287-3400). www.prospectpark.org/browwatch.

PERFORMANCE
MUSIC, AFTER THE JUMP FESTIVAL: See Friday, Aug. 28.
DANCE, NEW WORK: Choreographers Lindsay and Jason Dietz-Marchant reveal their latest. Free. 2 pm, MTG 10 Jay St. 10th floor in DUMBO, (718) 797-1145). www.thechanceproject.org.

SALES AND MARKETS
LEWIS AVENUE FLEA MARKET: Free. 9 am-6 pm, Lewis Avenue.

FRI, AUG. 28
Blood drive: Sponsored by the North Flatbush Business Improvement District. Receive a free guest pass from Council and Justice for Healthy Nibbles. 2 pm-7:30 pm, Council Chambers (100 Flatbush Ave. in Park Slope, (718) 738-1685). www.nbfid.com.

TUES, SEP. 1
Candidates' debate: Seekers of the 33rd Council District seat, currently occupied by David Yeskey, will debate transportation issues. 7 pm, Automotive (4570 Bedford Avenue between N 12th and Lorimer streets in Williamsburg, (646) 873-6029).
76th Precinct Community Council: Monthly meeting. 7:30 pm, 76th Precinct Stationhouse.

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Friends of Carroll Park: Monthly meeting. Carroll Park (South Street between President and Carroll streets in Carroll Gardens). For info, e-mail friends@carrollpark.org or carrollpark.org.

WED, SEPT. 2
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President's men

Woodstein — and Redford — at BAM

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

Two of the most important journalists of the 20th century — and the actor who brought their story to life in one of the greatest movies of the same century — will be at BAM on Sept. 12.

Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein — “Woodstein” of the Washington Post who exposed Watergate and brought down President Nixon — will join Robert Redford in a question-and-answer session following an 8 p.m. screening of the Alan Pakula-directed “All the President's Men.”

Organizers of the rare event also said that the event is already sold out.

The good news is that Redford will make a second rare personal appearance the next night as part of the all-day “Redford: Film & Conversation” program after simultaneous screenings of “The Way We Were,” “Out of Africa,” “The Natural,” and “The Electric Horseman” at 3 p.m.

The actor, known for iconic American characters like Roy Hobbs (“The



Hacks: Robert Redford, who played Bob Woodward in “All the President's Men” with Dustin Hoffman in the Carl Bernstein role, will appear with the real-life dynamic duo on Saturday, Sept. 12 at BAM.

Natural”), the Sundance Kid, John Gage (“Indecent Proposal”), Jay Gatsby, and, of course, like the Horse in “Charlotte's Web,” will talk about his long career as an actor, director and activist.

Both celebrity-filled events are merely

a small part of BAMcinemateck's “Robert Redford: Artist and Activist,” a 16-film tribute that begins on Sept. 8 and features pretty much all of the classics from Redford's 50-year career (see schedule).

A fortnight of Redford

Even if you miss Robert Redford's two-night stand at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, there will still be hours and hours of Redford to soak in during BAMcinemateck's retrospective, “Robert Redford: Artist and Activist,” Sept. 8-16.

It's a fortnight of great films, wonderful acting and a steady stream of subtle political and social activism. Here's the full schedule:

Tuesday, Sept. 8, 4:30, 6:50, 9:15 pm

“**The Candidate**” (1972)

Directed by Michael Ritchie with Redford and Peter Boyle

In this political satire, Redford stars as a handsome pol who compromises his liberal ideals to win a Senate seat.

Wednesday, Sept. 9, 6:50, 9:15 pm

“**Downhill Racer**” (1969)

Directed by Michael Ritchie with Redford and Gene Hackman

Redford stars as a talented downhill skier whose cocky demeanor puts him at odds with his coach and his team.

Thursday, Sept. 10, 6:50, 9:30 pm

“**Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid**” (1969)

Directed by George Roy Hill with Redford and Paul Newman

Is a plot summary really necessary?

Saturday, Sept. 12, 2 pm

“**Quiz Show**” (1994)

Directed by Redford with John Turturro, Rob Morrow, Ralph Fiennes

Redford uses the real-life story of nebbishy Herbert Stempel to make a larger point about class, talent and reputation.

Saturday, Sept. 12, 5 pm

“**The Sting**” (1973)

Directed by George Roy Hill with Redford, Paul Newman and Robert Shaw

The best caper movie ever made.

Saturday, Sept. 12, 8 pm (SOLD OUT)

“**All the President's Men**” (1976)

Directed by Alan Pakula with Redford, Dustin Hoffman and Jason Robards

Sunday, Sept. 13, 12:15 pm

“**A River Runs Through It**” (1992)

Directed by Redford with Brad Pitt

A bit lyrical, but why shouldn't an American icon like Robert Redford get to puthis muscular, fishing-filled stamp on the iconic American west?

Sunday, Sept. 13, 12:30 pm

“**Jeremiah Johnson**” (1972)

Directed by Sydney Pollack with Redford and Will Geer

A revisionist Western.

Sunday, Sept. 13, special screenings (with Redford post film appearance)

“**Out of Africa**” (1984)

Directed by Sydney Pollack with Redford and Meryl Streep, 3 pm

A romance? In colonial Africa? With Redford as a hunter? Good stuff.

“**The Natural**” (1985)

Directed by Barry Levinson with Redford, Robert Duval, Glenn Close and

Kim Basinger, 3:10 pm

The ultimate fantasy baseball story, with Redford as Roy Hobbs.

“**The Electric Horseman**” (1979)

Directed by Sydney Pollack with Redford and Jane Fonda, 3:15 pm

Redford stars as Sonny Steele, a washed-up rodeo star and corporate shill in this cynical comedy.

“**The Way We Were**” (1973)

Directed by Sydney Pollack with Redford and Barbra Streisand, 3:15 pm

She's a Marxist, he's a WASP-y jock. This being Hollywood, they fall in love—but don't worry, real movie fans, there's a McCarthyism subtext.

* Tickets for these special “Redford: Film and Conversation” screenings are \$20.

Monday, Sept. 14, 6:50, 9:30 pm

“**Ordinary People**” (1980)

Directed by Redford with Donald Sutherland, Mary Tyler Moore, Timothy Hutton and Judd Hirsch

Redford's directorial debut remains one of the greatest tributes to psychotherapy.

Wednesday, Sept. 16, 6:50, 9:30 pm

“**Three Days of the Condor**” (1975)

Directed by Sydney Pollack with Redford and Faye Dunaway

A great political thriller about a CIA researcher (Redford) fighting a massive government conspiracy.

Tickets for all screenings are \$11 (adults), \$8 (seniors, children under 12 and students). Tickets available by phone at (718) 636-4100 or at BAM.org.

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FAMILY CALENDAR



Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Boom A Ring now through Sept. 7 at Coney Island.

FRI, AUG. 28
2 pm: Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Boom A Ring. One ring version of the Ringling Brothers show. \$10.55. (West 21st Street at the Boardwalk in Coney Island, (201) 507-8900).
www.ringling.com

2 pm: Animal tales, folk-tales, games, costumes, crafts, skulls and skins for children aged 4-11. Part of the Children's Corner activities. Free. Prospect Park Children's Corner (Corner of Flatbush Ave. and Empire Blvd. in Prospect Park, (718) 638-7700).
www.hearstpark.org/childrenscorner

SAT, AUG. 29
10:30 am: Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Boom A Ring. One ring version of the Ringling Brothers show. \$10.55. (West 21st Street at the Boardwalk in Coney Island, (201) 507-8900).
www.ringling.com

2 pm: Science Power Hour. See Saturday, Aug. 29. 2 pm: Story hour. See Saturday, Aug. 29.

WED, SEP. 2
2 pm: Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Boom A Ring. One ring version of the Ringling Brothers show. \$10.55. (West 21st Street at the Boardwalk in Coney Island, (201) 507-8900).
www.ringling.com

THURS, SEP. 3
2 pm: Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Boom A Ring. One ring version of the Ringling Brothers show. \$10.55. (West 21st Street at the Boardwalk in Coney Island, (201) 507-8900).
www.ringling.com

FRI, SEP. 4
11 am-5 pm: Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Boom A Ring. One ring version of the Ringling Brothers show. \$10.55. (West 21st Street at the Boardwalk in Coney Island, (201) 507-8900).
www.ringling.com

SAT, SEP. 5
10:30 am: Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Boom A Ring. One ring version of the Ringling Brothers show. \$10.55. (West 21st Street at the Boardwalk in Coney Island, (201) 507-8900).
www.ringling.com

SUN, AUG. 30
1 pm: Nature Crafts. See Saturday, Aug. 29. 1:30 pm: Science Power Hour. See Saturday, Aug. 29. 2 pm: Story hour. See Saturday, Aug. 29.

WED, SEP. 2
2 pm: Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Boom A Ring. One ring version of the Ringling Brothers show. \$10.55. (West 21st Street at the Boardwalk in Coney Island, (201) 507-8900).
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www.ringling.com

While Smartmom's away, Spirit will play



By Louise Crawford

For the first time ever, Teen Spirit stayed in Brooklyn while the rest of the family went on vacation to California to visit Hepcat's family on the farm.

What a milestone. And what a strange feeling it was going to the airport early in the morning and leaving him asleep in his bedroom.

Smartmom can remember Teen Spirit's first trip to California. He was only 3 months old the first time they took him to meet his paternal grandmother, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Teen Spirit is 18 now, and he's making his own plans. In fact, Teen Spirit got himself a job at a warehouse in Brooklyn. Now he's a working man — heavy labor and all that.

Smartmom and Hepcat are thrilled. He's making money, and they hope the work will be so tedious that he'll change his mind about going to university and highball it to a real college.

Not likely. Teen Spirit has his heart set on experiencing the world first-hand. He wants to work, to make music, to travel the Blue Highways of America or something like that.

But in the meantime, he's on his own in Brooklyn and Smartmom is stressed even as she's watching him under a cecilian sky slipping gin and tonics in the dry California heat.

Why is she stressing? Because she just got an e-mail from her downstairs neighbor saying that Teen Spirit had a big party the other night.

A big party? This was the first Smartmom was hearing about it. But her neighbor wasn't e-mailing to complain about the noise, the loud music, or the walling of a large group of teenagers. It was the week of the morning.

No, she was e-mailing to say that he'd better clean up the beer cans and cigarette boxes that were thrown out the fire escape outside of Teen Spirit's room during the party.

A few hours later, her

phone, but he didn't pick up because he was working at the warehouse.

Smartmom asked, "Was it a big bash?" "Not a big bash, but a party," Mrs. Kravitz said.

"How many beer cans were in the backyard?" Smartmom asked.

"About a dozen," Mrs. Kravitz said.

Smartmom was fit to be tied. Not because he had a party that's pretty much degrading for an 18-year-old when his parents are away. And not because they were drinking and smoking. That, too, is what happens with the mice when the cat is away.

No, she was furious because he didn't stop his friends from throwing cans and cigarette boxes off the fire escape.

Worse, he didn't clean up after the party. That was disgusting — and disrespectful — of the other people in the apartment building.

She was also furious because the situation 3,000 miles away was ruining an otherwise perfect day by the pool.

So what's a smart mom to do? She checked Teen Spirit, but didn't hear back from him. She tried to get him on the

phone, but he didn't pick up because he was working at the warehouse.

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WAR...

Continued from page 1

"There were difficulties between me and [him], and I wanted to start my own business," he said. As for why the menus are virtually identical, Huynh waved that off.

"I was really busy with other things, so I had my friend do the menu," he said. "I had no idea what it would look like."

Of course, banh mi fans could be excused for seeing a certain irony to this latest Vietnam War. For all that Tang complains about Huynh, he's also been accused of being a sandwich swiper himself.

As The Brooklyn Paper reported a year and a half ago, Tang had a Brownstone Brooklyn banh mi monopoly at his original Bergen Street location until a shop called Nicky's opened around the corner on Atlantic Avenue in 2007.

Nicky's, you'll recall, is owned by the Dang family, which owned the seminal Sunset Park sandwich shop, An Dong — where Tang admits he often hung out when was growing up, hoping to pick up tips for an eventual sandwich shop of his own.

When he opened Hanco's, the Dangs blasted him with much of the same language he now reserves for Huynh — though the Dangs never accused Tang of the kinds of things that Tang is saying Huynh did.

"When Henry was still working for me, one of the other employees purposely made bad sandwiches with cold meat and too much mayo, so I fired him," Tang said. "Then after I fired him, Henry and his mother quit and then another girl quit. They all work at Henry's now."

Tang suggested that the bad worker was intentionally making poor sandwiches to undermine Hanco's reputation on the eve of Henry's opening.

Foodies can be assured that Hanco's quality is as high as ever. In fact, in a double-blind taste test by The Brooklyn Paper, the Hanco's sandwich emerged as ever slightly better than Henry's: the meat a bit juicier and flavorful, the sauce a tiny bit more moist, the bread a bit crispier.

Huynh's sandwich has the advantage of being 55 cents cheaper — but it's unclear how long that sale will last. For now, Huynh said he wanted to remain on the high ground and not fight a test with his former boss. Besides, as in that more famous Vietnam conflict two generations ago, the Americans will ultimately have to choose what side they're on.

"Competition makes the food better, and our customers will decide who is better," he said. The fight is not only being waged in the shops, but on the Internet (of course). The Hanco's vs. Henry's smackdown has been the talk of the Brooklynian message board. "I hope my kids are safe at home when this thing gets settled in the street," quipped South Slope Suit.



Let's King of Pop Michael Jackson filmed the video for "Bad" (below) in the Hoyt-Schermerhorn subway station in 1987. Councilwoman Letitia James wants the MTA to honor that.

No plaque-o for Jacko

MTA: Singer won't get 'Bad' station honor

By Robert Voris

For The Brooklyn Paper

The MTA told a Brooklyn councilwoman to beat it after she suggested that the Hoyt-Schermerhorn subway station be renamed in honor of Michael Jackson, who famously filmed his "Bad" videotape in 1987.

But Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Fort Greene) is still working day and night for suburban recognition of Jackson on the eve of what would have been the singer's 51st birthday on Saturday.

Last week, James approached the transit agency again, this time to suggest that a plaque placed in the station to recognize its role in Jackson's famed video.

Though the song clocks at only 4:07, the video, directed by Martin Scorsese's "Kundun," "New York, New York" is a sprawling, 18-minute-long opus wherein Jackson uses the



power of dance to defeat arch-nemeses Wesley Snipes in a gang fight that takes place in the stark white-tiled station that currently serves as a stop on the A, C and G lines.

"They told me to beat it after I asked for the station to be co-named, and then they also told me no plaque," said James, who joked that the MTA would

and memorials are prohibited, but station renamings are negotiable.

"We are currently working on guidelines and protocol to see how we can move forward with what we consider to be a viable revenue source," he said.

The MTA does allow both plaques and statuary under its "Arts in Transit" program, which kicks in whenever a station is renovated. The 14th Street station on the A line, for example, has Tom Otterness figures cowering in its crevices.

Frank Bowles, a Clinton Hill resident who was waiting at Hoyt-Schermerhorn on Wednesday, backed James's bid for a Hoyt-Jackson station.

"It's a great idea, and I'll tell you why — it's a revenue builder," he said. "All the tourists that would go through the turnstiles just to take that picture."

Ortiz responded that plaques

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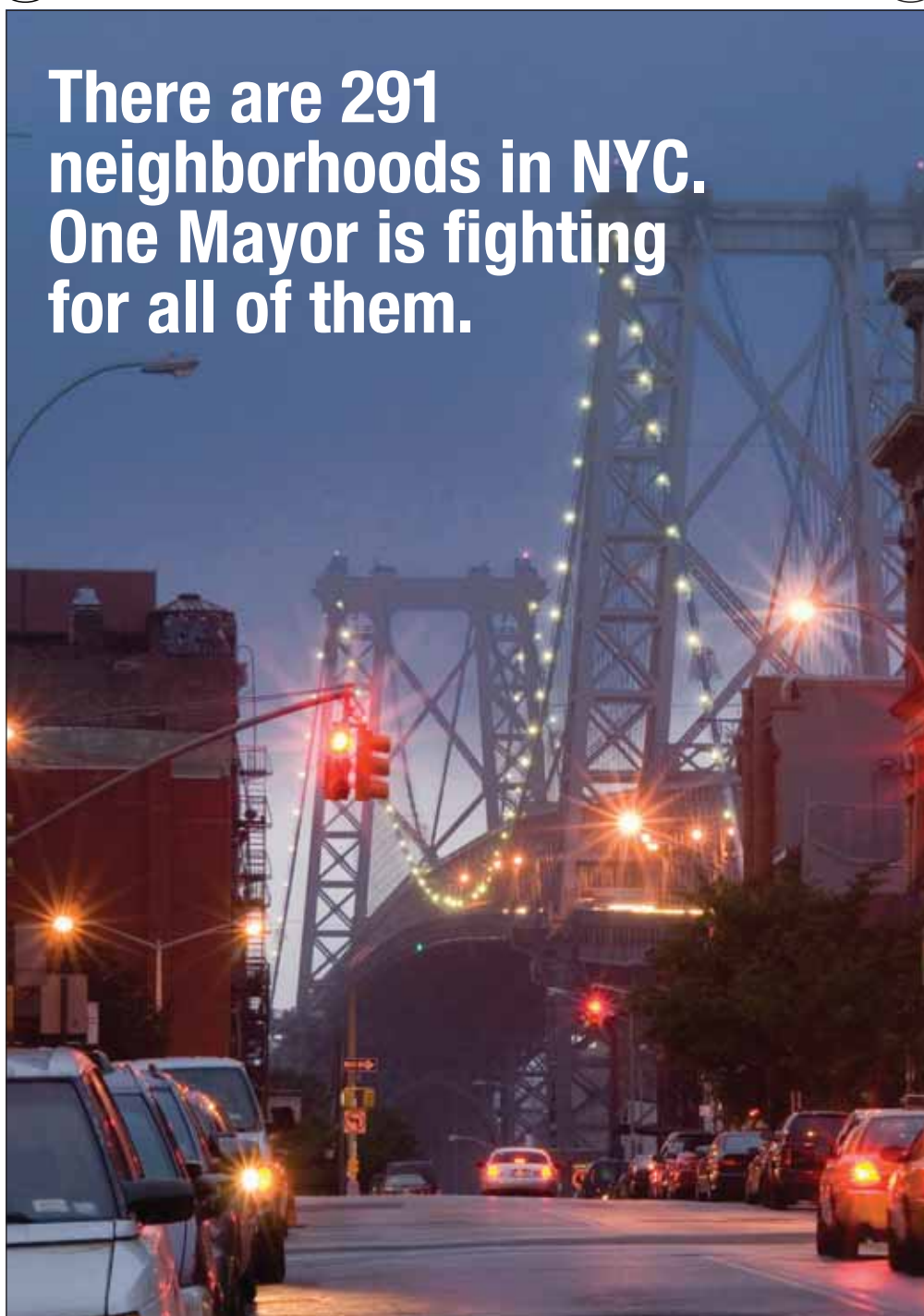


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